

MARS

Horse
with no
Name



by Fuyumi Soryo

MARS 外伝

GAIDEN

- SLEEPING LION
- A ONE SECRET FRUIT





Horse With No Name

By Fuyumi Soryo



LOS ANGELES • TOKYO • LONDON • HAMBURG



S T O R Y S O F A R

Kira and Rei might as well be from different planets. She's a shy art student, afraid of boys and hated by her classmates. He's a rebellious motorcycle racer who has girls dropping left and right just to talk to him. Their lives become intertwined when Kira asks Rei to model for her and, to everyone's surprise, he agrees. As these two battle their personal demons and pressures of their classmates, they learn to not only love each other, but themselves. Kira and Rei's beautiful love story unfolds, page by page, over 15 glorious volumes. In "Horse With No Name," we finally find out the details of when they met for the very first time.

IT'S NOT LIKE A JOURNEY INTO A NEW LIFE,
BUT GOING INTO HIGH SCHOOL IS LIKE
THE START OF A NEW JOURNEY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF JOURNEY...
I'M NOT REALLY SURE ABOUT THAT YET.

BUT THEY SAY THAT IF SOMETHING
STARTS WELL, IT ENDS WELL, YOU KNOW?



I HAVE TO MAKE SURE I'M COOL ON
MY FIRST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL...

REALLY COOL...



I'VE BEEN KEEPING AN EYE OUT SINCE
THE OPENING-DAY ASSEMBLY, BUT...

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE
ANYONE WHO STANDS OUT.



STAY COOL. I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO LEAD THIS CLASS...





THE FIRST DAY OF
SCHOOL IS CRUCIAL!

SHIT!
I SAID SORRY FOR
NO REASON!

WHAT AM I
DOING
STANDING
DOWN?!

„TO BE
DECIDED
BASED
ON WHAT
HAPPENS
TODAY.

THE CLASS
HIERARCHY IS
GOING...

183 cm
↑

AND I THINK HE MIGHT
EVEN BE TALLER
THAN ME, SO I CAN'T
USE THE HEIGHT
THING,



AND HE
SETS RIGHT
IN FRONT
OF ME..

YAWN...

WHO IS THIS
GUY, ANYWAY?

WAS HE AT THE
OPENING-DAY
ASSEMBLY?



OKAY!
NEXT.



I REALLY
WANT TO
TELL YOU
ABOUT
MYSELF,

BUT I
LOST MY
MEMORY...

...SO I
DON'T
REALLY
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
MYSELF.

UM,
I'M REI
KASHINO.



WHO KNOWS.

I DON'T REMEMBER HIS FACE AT ALL.

WHERE'S HE FROM, ANYWAY?

WHAT'S UP..

..WITH THAT KASHINO GUY?

ME, NEITHER. IT'S NOT THE KIND OF FACE YOU WOULD FORGET. MAYBE HE'S AN ARTIST OR WEIRD OR SOMETHING.

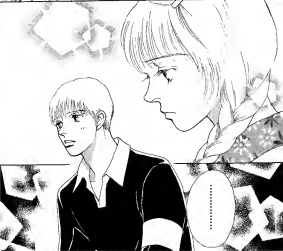
HE LOST HIS MEMORY? YEAH, RIGHT.

HE'S PROBABLY JUST A FREAK.

NO WAY. THAT GUY'S REALLY COOL.



THE FACT THAT HE WON'T REVEAL HIS PAST IS EXTRA MYSTERIOUS!







I DON'T
HAVE THE
CONFIDENCE
TO TELL
KIRA I LIKE
HER.



THIS SONG!!

HMMM.
THE WORDS ARE
ENGLISH, SO THE
BAND'S AMERICAN
OR BRITISH.



OH YEAH...
LAST YEAR WHEN I WAS STUDYING
FOR EXAMS, I WOULD ALWAYS HEAR
THIS SONG ON THE RADIO.

I WAS READING, SO I DON'T EVEN KNOW
WHO SINGS IT...

...BUT IT BUGGED ME
THIS WHOLE TIME.

I KEPT MEANING TO LOOK
UP THE CD.

URRRN...
I CAN'T ASK
ANYONE 'CAUSE
ALL I KNOW IS
THE MELODY...

DRAG,

I MISSED
HEARING THE
TITLE AGAIN.



A BASKETBALL
GAME AS SORT
OF A MEET-
AND-GREET...
IT'S NOT
EXACTLY AN
ORIGINAL IDEA

I THOUGHT
THINGS
WOULD
CHANGE...

...ONCE WE
GOT TO
HIGH SCHOOL...
BUT IT'S NOT MUCH
DIFFERENT FROM
JUNIOR HIGH.

IT'S
TOO
EARLY.



YOU WERE
PLANNING ON
SHOWING OFF!

YOU WERE
PRACTICING
HARD AFTER
SCHOOL.

WELL, I SAY THAT
BUT MAYBE I WAS
KIND OF LOOKING
FORWARD TO IT.



BUT THEN...

...THAT GUY WASN'T
EVEN AT PRACTICE.
WHY IS HE PLAYING
SO MUCH?



AND HE'S
GOT THAT
PLAYBOY
LOOK.

THE GIRLS
ARE GOING
CRAZY..

WELL, HE'S
SO TALL...

AND HE'S
GOOD AT
BASKETBALL...



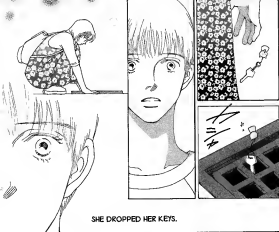
I GUESS.

IT'S TRUE THAT HE'S COOL...

BUT...

...DON'T THINK
THAT ALL THE GIRLS
WILL BE INTO HIM.





SHE DROPPED HER KEYS.



THERE'S
NO POINT
IN SITTING
THERE
STARING...

S...
STUPID.

GO GET
THE
JANITOR!!





I JUST NEED
10 BUCKS.

...COULD YOU LEND
ME SOME CASH?



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
THANK ME,
BUT...



I'LL PAY
YOU BACK,
I PROMISE.

THANKS.



OH YEAH,
WHAT'S YOUR
NAME?



!



ASO



HEY,

WHERE'D
YOU GET
THAT
BRACELET?

YOU'RE
ALWAYS
WEARING
IT.

I GOT
IT..

_FROM
SOMEONE I
KNOW.

BASTARD!!!

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH YOU?

WHAT?
WHO GAVE
IT TO YOU?

WHAT'S
THE
DEAL..?

WHO
CARES?

THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN MY
CHANCE! I COULD'VE
GOTTEN THE KEYS AND
REALLY MADE AN
IMPRESSION...!

I SET A GIRL
GAVE IT TO
YOU.

NOPE.



BUT...

1234
5678
9012
3456
7890

WHAT? I
DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

...WITH AN
OLDER
WOMAN.

I HEARD A
RUMOR THAT
YOU WERE
WALKING
AROUND
SHIRUYA...



...DON'T GO
SHAKING MONEY
FROM ASO, YOU
BASTARD!!



I JUST DON'T LEAVE IT AT THAT.

WHY NOT?

I DON'T
BELIEVE
ANYTHING
YOU SAY.

I JUST CAN'T
SAY WHY.

THIS ISN'T
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.

IT'S SOMETHING
THAT HAS A LOT
OF MEMORIES
FOR ME.

10-18...

WHY AM I SUCH A WUSS...?

I'M SO TIRED
OF THE WAY
I AM.



I HEARD THAT
KASHINO GUY HAS
SOME SUGAR-
MOMMA WHO'S
A SENIOR.

YEAH,
RIGHT.

BUT IT
PISSSES
ME OFF.

SERIOUSLY.
HE WAS
WEARING A
ROLEX THE
OTHER DAY.

WHAT?
DID SOME
GIRL BUY
THAT FOR
HIM, TOO?

DAMN
HE'S
PRACTICALLY
A GIGOLO.

THAT'S NOT
ALL.

I SAW KASHINO
AND NAKAMURA
FROM C CLASS
COME OUT OF
A SEX HOTEL IN
SHIBUYA.



HE'S ALL COCKY
JUST BECAUSE
HE'S SORTA
GOOD-LOOKING.

WE NEED TO
CHECK HIM,
MAH!

DOES HE
THINK HE CAN
JUST HAVE
WHATEVER
GIRL HE
LOOKS AT?

I CAN'T
FORGIVE
KASHINO!

YOU'RE
RIGHT,
LET'S
SHOW
THAT
ASSHOLE!



YEAH. WE'LL
TEACH HIM A
LESSON HE
WON'T FORGET!

HEY,
THERE'S A
FIGHT!!







AND
THEY'RE
GETTING
PUMMELED.

ONE GUY
AGAINST
FOUR.

DAMN...







IT'S SOMETHING THAT
HAS A LOT OF MEMORIES
FOR ME...



IF WE PISS HIM
OFF, EVEN THE
FOUR OF US
TOGETHER...

...DON'T
STAND A
CHANCE...

ARE YOU
SURE YOU
STILL WANT
TO DO THIS,
TATSUYA?

CALLING
KASHINO OUT
MAYBE ISN'T SO
SMART?



IT'S NOT LIKE
THE GUY'S
INVINCIBLE.

IT'LL BE
FINE.

JUST WATCH, HE
MIGHT PUSS OUT.

SO YOU SAY,
BUT HE WAS
SERIOUSLY
PISSED.

YEAH...HIS
FACE WAS
COMPLETELY
DISTORTED.

AFTER
SEEING THAT
YESTERDAY...

WELL...

WHOSE FACE
WAS
DISTORTED?

AAAAHHH!!!!

WHAT THE
HELL DO
YOU
WANT?

WHAT'S THE
DEAL...

OH
MY
GOD!

WH...WHAT
IS THIS
GUY, A
LEOPARD?

...CALLING ME OUT
WAY OVER
HERE...?



DID YOU HAVE
SEX WITH YUKA
NAKAMURA
FROM C CLASS
LAST WEEK?

!

NAKAMURA IS
GOING OUT
WITH ATSUSHI.

AND WHAT
IF I DID?

ATSUSHI'S GOING
THROUGH A LOT OF
SHIT RIGHT NOW
BECAUSE OF YOU.

SO WHAT?

OH, SO A GIRL
SAYS OKAY AND
YOU JUST NAIL
HER LIKE A
DOG!

YOU
DON'T
CARE!

SHUT
UP, YOU
IDIOT.

WHAT
DO I
CARE?

I WANT
YOU TO
APOLOGIZE
TO ATSUSHI.

ANYWAY, SHE
WANTED IT,
NOT ME.



IT HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH YOU.

FIRST OF ALL,
WHAT'S UP
WITH YOU?

...AND YOU
TALKED TO HER
AND SWINDLED
MONEY OFF HER!

THERE'S A
GIRL, ASO,
I'VE LIKED
SINCE JUNIOR
HIGH.

YEAH, IT
DOES!

DID YOU PAY
BACK THAT
10 BUCKS?

THAT'S WHAT'S UP WITH ME.





FOR NO
REASON!!
YOU FOOLED
ROUND WITH
SOMEONE
ELSE'S GIRL!

WHY
ARE YOU
SO COLD, YOU
BASTARD!!

SORRY, PAL,
BUT I DON'T
BACK DOWN
FOR NO
REASON.



WHEN YOU GET
HOT, IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHO
THE GIRL IS. SEX
IS SEX.

EVEN IF I
FOOLED
AROUND WITH
HER, THAT'S
BETWEEN US.

IT'S NOT
LIKE I
RAPED
HER.



IF YOU ASK ME,
IT'S MORE
PATHETIC TO
HAVE YOUR GIRL
TAKEN BY
ANOTHER GUY.

I'M NOT
GOING TO
APOLOGIZE
FOR SOME
GIRL COMING
ON TO ME.

...AS LONG
AS HE'S A
GUY AND...
...BREATHING.

AND FOR YOUR
INFORMATION,

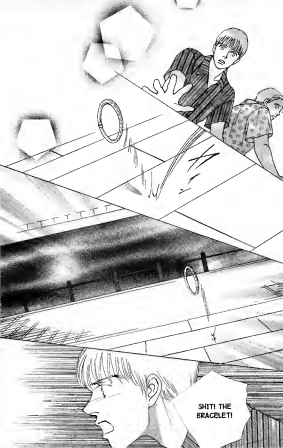
...SHE'S THE
TYPE THAT
WOULD GO
OUT WITH
ANYONE...

ATSUSHI!

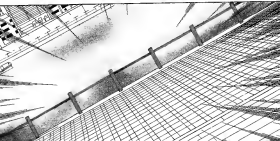
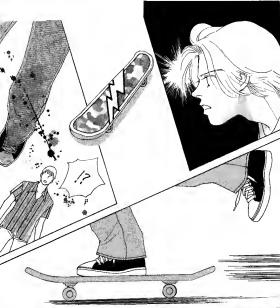
AAANNNNN

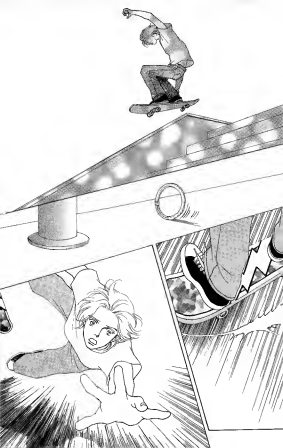
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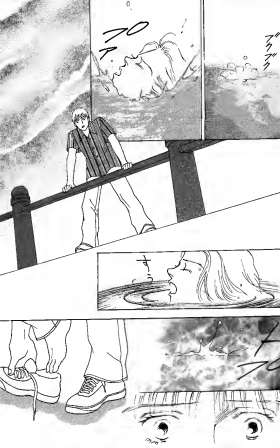


SHITI THE
BRACELET!















I'M
SORRY...

..THAT IT
HAD TO
TURN INTO
THIS.

WAS IT
REALLY
IMPORTANT
TO YOU?



THAT
BRACELET...



HEY, GOING
HOME?

FORGET
IT...

BUT I GOT
THIS.

I DIDN'T
CATCH ANY
FISH,

NOT GOOD!
I DIDN'T GET
A THING.

HOW'D YOU
MAKE OUT
TODAY?

I THOUGHT I'D
GIVE IT TO MY
GRANDDAUGHTER
'CAUSE IT'S
PRETTY.



WAIT A
MINUTE!

SIR!



WHAT DO YOU
MEANT YOU MAKE
IT SOUND LIKE
YOU'VE NEVER
LIVED IN JAPAN.

I ALWAYS
WANTED TO
GO TO A
JAPANESE
BATHHOUSE.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOUR
PARENTS OWN
ONE OF THESE
JOINTS.



I LIVED IN LOS ANGELES UNTIL I WAS 13.



!



YEAH, I CAN.
I WENT TO
MIDDLE SCHOOL
OVER THERE,
TOO.

WHAT? YOU'VE
BEEN LIVING IN
AMERICA?

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

THEN YOU CAN
SPEAK TWO
LANGUAGES.



DON'T TELL ME
SOME GIRL FROM
OVER THERE GAVE
YOU THAT
BRACELET...?



I GOT THAT
FROM A BIKE
RACER I KNEW.

NOPE.



HE GAVE ME THE
BRACELET-TOLD
ME HE USED TO
WEAR IT AS A
LUCKY CHARM.

BUT HE KEPT
SAYING HE
WAS GOING
TO QUIT THE
BIZ...

HE USED
TO ROAD
RACE.



YEAH, BUT I
GOT IN A
WRECK LAST
YEAR SO I'M
NOT DOING IT
RIGHT NOW.

MOTORCYCLES?
DO YOU RACE?

WHAT
KIND OF
ROAD
RACING?



ROAD
RACING...



I THOUGHT
MAYBE IT WAS
BECAUSE OF
THAT
BRACELET.

THE ACCIDENT
WAS HARSH.

I SHOULD'VE
DIED, BUT I JUST
BROKE MY
COLLABONE.

WOW...



HE'S DEAD.

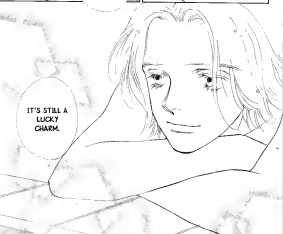
THAT GU
WHO
GAVE IT
TO YOU
MIGHT
NOT BE SO
LUCKY
ANYMORE.



SOME
TRUCK
DRIVER FELL
ASLEEP AT
THE WHEEL,
THEN
CRASHED
INTO HIS
CAR...



SO IT'S
BECOME A
KEEPSAKE...



IT'S STILL A
LUCKY
CHARM.



I'M CARRYING
TWO PEOPLE'S
LIVES.



I... I THINK I
HAD THE
WRONG IDEA
ABOUT YOU.



HEY, ISN'T
THERE A
PEEPHOLE TO
THE WOMEN'S
BATHS IN
HERE?

I THOUGHT YOU
WERE ARROGANT
AND RECKLESS,
THE WORST
KIND OF GUY...



MAYBE HE'S A LITTLE BAD...



SURE
IF IT WAS OPEN
JUST A LIT MORE

I THINK
WE'RE
PRETTY
MUCH THE
SAME SIZE.

YOU CAN
JUST
WEAR MY
CLOTHES.

BUT I REALLY CAN'T HATE HIM...YOU KNOW?

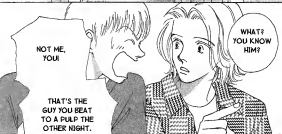
YEAH,
THANKS.

HEY, LET'S GO
GET SOME
ICE CREAM.



THANK YOU
VERY MUCH.





ASSHOLE, YOU
BETTER...

CONSIDER
THIS A
WARNING...

!

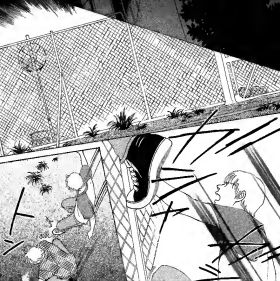
RUHI

RUHI

E..

_BASTARD!

COME BACK
HERE!!



Three men are standing in the background behind a chain-link fence. The man in the center is wearing a dark jacket and looking forward. The man on the left is wearing a light-colored shirt, and the man on the right is wearing a dark jacket and sunglasses.

HA, HA!

A woman with long hair and a boy with short hair are shown in profile, facing each other. The woman is on the left, and the boy is on the right. They appear to be in a conversation.

YOU'RE
SO STUPID!

A boy with short hair is looking towards the right, where the woman is. He has a slightly mischievous or smug expression.

IF YOU'RE SO
PISSED, COME
OVER HERE.

A woman and a boy are shown from the chest up, looking towards the right with expressions of surprise or concern. The woman is on the left, and the boy is on the right.

YOU'RE THE
STUPID ONE.

A close-up of the boy's face. He has a wide-eyed, surprised expression.

WHAT'S
THAT?!



IT'S...



IT'S...

IT'S OVER!



...WHO FOOLED
AROUND WITH
ONE OF OUR
CREW'S CHICKS...

SO YOU'RE
THE GUYS...



DUDE

WHO ASKS
DETAILS ABOUT
BOYFRIENDS
WHEN YOU'RE
ABOUT TO
HAVE SEX?

AND PLEASE,
THESE GUYS CALL
THEMSELVES A
BIKER GANG, BUT
THEY'RE NOT
REAL BIKERS.

OF ALL PEOPLE,
YOU WENT AND
HOOKED UP
WITH A BIKER'S
GIRL?



WHAT'S THE
FUN OF
CHUGGING
ALONG ON
HIGHWAY WITH
A BUNCH OF
OTHER
IDIOTS?

WE'RE
GONNA
KICK YOUR
ASS!!!

WE'RE FAMOUS
AROUND HERE AS
RECKLESS
RIDERS!

☆□※△÷✱
♂♀☆□!!!





RIDING ON
STRAIGHT FLAT
ROADS?

RECKLESS?



YOU'RE
AN IDIOT.

WHERE IN
JAPAN DO
WE HAVE
ROADS THAT
AREN'T
FLAT?

HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT, MAN?



TRY...
...THE
RACETRACK.



HE'S THAT GUY
KASHINO WHO
WON IN THE
FOUR-HOUR
ENDURANCE AT
SUZUKA LAST
YEAR!!

SUZUKA

I...I REMEMBER
NOW. I KNEW I'D
SEEN THIS GUY
BEFORE.



HEH



ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!

DAMN,
IT'S
REALLY
HIM.

OH...OH SHIT.
IT'S THAT RIDER
WHO WAS STILL
IN JUNIOR HIGH.

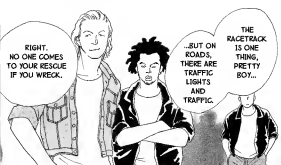
WHAT?!

INTERESTING...

I WANT TO SEE A
REAL RACER RIDE,
SINCE YOU'RE HERE.

I NEVER THOUGHT
I'D MEET A REAL
RACER HERE,

ESPECIALLY
SINCE I'M
ABOUT TO
BEAT YOU
SENSELESS.



RIGHT.
NO ONE COMES
TO YOUR RESCUE
IF YOU WRECK.

...BUT ON
ROADS,
THERE ARE
TRAFFIC
LIGHTS
AND
TRAFFIC.

THE
RACETRACK
IS ONE
THING,
PRETTY
BOY...



THERE'S A BIG
TURNAROUND
ABOUT TWO
BLOCKS FROM
HERE.
WE FLIP
IT THERE
AND ROLL
BACK.

SO RACE US
RIGHT NOW.
BRING IT.



IF YOU REFUSE
TO RACE, YOUR
FRIEND HERE'S
GONNA BE IN
TROUBLE.

IF I GET BACK
HERE FIRST,
WE'RE ALL
GOOD, RIGHT?



RACE
YOUR
FINE. C
WHAT
BIKE

A
250CC...

HEY, HEY!!!
WHAT'S GONNA
HAPPEN TO ME?

YEAH, SURE.
YOU AND
YOUR
SIDEKICK ARE
FREE TO GO.

BUT YOU
GOTTA GET
BACK IN ONE
PIECE.



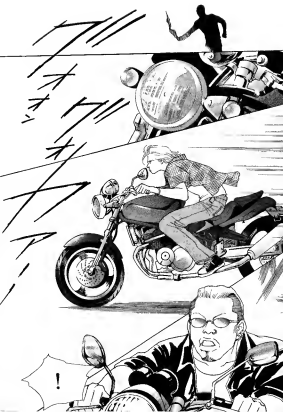
NOT A
PROBLEM.



ARE...ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!

THEY'RE ALL ON 750CC BIKES!







HE...

...HE'S
PAST.

AND HE'S
ONLY ON A
250...

I BET HE'S
BACKING OUT.
GO AFTER HIM!

THE BASTARD
BROKE AWAY
FROM THE
ROUTE



H...HE'S
ALREADY...AT THE
TURNAROUND!



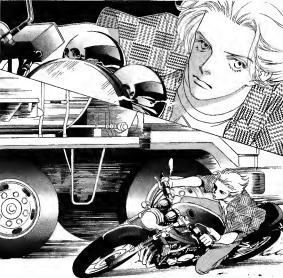


THAT MANIAC'S
NOT PAYING
ATTENTION TO
ANY TRAFFIC
SIGNALS!











HE...

HE
DODGED
IT!

Lucky!

RIGHT ON!!



WHAT
A
WILD
MAN.

HE'S
TOTALLY
CRAZY!

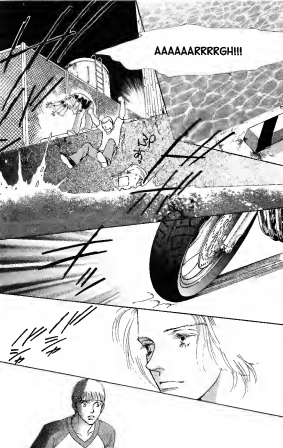
OH GOD...

MY LUCK RUNS OUT
HERE, I GUESS.

REI IS NOT COMING
BACK...



AAAAAARRRRGH!!!



I KICKED
THEIR
ASSES,
MAN!

DON'T
UNDERESTIMATE ME.
THERE'S NO WAY I
WOULD LOSE TO
THOSE GUYS.

I DIDN'T
THINK YOU
WOULD COME
BACK.

THAT'S NOT
WHAT I MEANT.

YOU WEREN'T
BEING HELD
AGAINST YOUR
WILL.



BUT YOU
CAME BACK.

YOU
COULD'VE
SPLIT AND
JUST LEFT ME
AT THEIR
MERCY.



THIS
GUY...

NOW THAT
YOU MENTION
IT, I COULD
HAVE...





OH.

WAIT.
THIS
SONG!

THAT
SONG'S ON
AGAIN.

I'M...

...I'M JUST
GLAD THAT
WE'RE BOTH
SAFE.



IT'S
"HORSE
WITH NO
NAME."



WHAT'S
THE SONG
ABOUT?

YEAH. IT'S A
SONG BY A
BAND CALLED
AMERICA THAT
WAS REALLY
BIG IN THE
'70S.

THIS
SONG'S
CALLED
"HORSE
WITH NO
NAME"?



WELL,

IT'S
ABOUT A
GUY IN THE
DESERT.

HE'S
RIDING A
HORSE WITH
NO NAME.

HE SINGS
ABOUT HOW
BEING IN THE
DESERT CLEARS
YOUR HEAD.

THERE'S NO
ONE AROUND
TO GIVE YOU
ANY PAIN OR
GRIEF.

HHMM...



I SHOULD
BUY THE CD.

SO THAT'S
WHAT THE
SONG IS
ABOUT.

IF YOU BUY
THE CD,
LET ME
BORROW
IT.

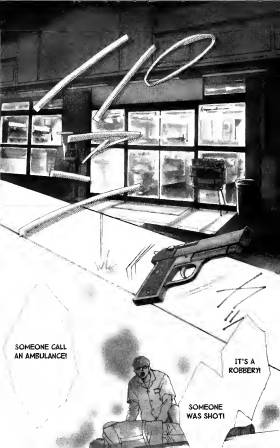
NEVERMIND,
I DON'T HAVE
A STEREO.



REALLY? WHO
DOESN'T HAVE
A STEREO IN
THIS DAY AND
AGE?







SOMEONE CALL
AN AMBULANCE!

IT'S A
ROBBERY!

SOMEONE
WAS SHOT!

THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
WHO WAS IN A COMA AFTER
BEING SHOT DIED TODAY.

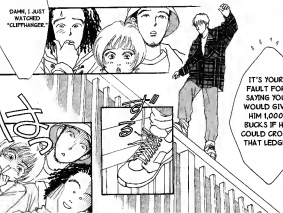
THE DECEASED YOUTH WAS
SATOSHI OKADA. SATOSHI WAS
SHOT WHILE TRYING TO STOP A
ROBBERY. HIS COURAGE HAS
TURNED INTO A TRAGEDY.

STOP IT,
ISAMU.
THAT'S
DANGEROUS.

IN REACTION TO THE
GROWING NUMBER OF
GUN CRIMES, THE
GOVERNMENT HAS--

GAHH, I JUST
WATCHED
"CLIFFHANGER."

IT'S YOUR
FAULT FOR
SAYING YOU
WOULD GIVE
HIM 1,000
BUCKS IF HE
COULD CRO
THAT LEDG





IT'S
CALLED A
DEATHWISH.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU.
ONE MISSTEP
AND YOU
WOULD'VE
BEEN DEAD.
WEREN'T YOU
SCARED?

NOT
REALLY.

YOU HAVE
A SUICIDE
WISH OR
SOMETHING?

SUICIDE'S
SO LAME.

JUST
KIDDING!



I MADE IT,
SO GIVE
ME MY
THOUSAND
BONES.

YOU
BET
ME...



HEY,
LET'S GO
TO THE
ARCADE.

BUT THAT'S WHAT'S
SO GREAT ABOUT HIM.

YOU'RE
PRETTY
TWISTED.



THAT
GIRL
AGAIN...

WHO?

WHERE?



LET'S GO.

WHAT'RE YOU
DOING?



.....



ISAMU
...

GO ON
AHEAD.
I'M
GONNA
SHOO
HER OFF.





DID YOU
KNOW THAT,
UNTIL LAST
YEAR, HE WENT
TO ONE OF
THE BEST HIGH
SCHOOLS?

ISAMU'S
PRETTY
WEIRD,
MAN.



BUT IT
MAKES HE
WANT TO
GET INSIDE
HIS HEAD.

I DON'T
KNOW WHY HE
WOULD QUIT
THAT SCHOOL
TO HANG OUT
WITH US,



WHAT'S
UP? YOU
STALKING
ME?

YOU'VE
BEEN
FOLLOWING
ME AROUND
FOR A
WHILE.

IT'S A
PAIN IN
THE ASS.



OH MY
GOD, OH
MY GOD...

...OH MY
GOD!

WHAT?!

I'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR
YOU TO TALK
TO ME FOR SO
LONG.



YOU...
NOTICED
ME?!

HOW
COULD I
NOT?
WHAT THE
HELL IS
YOUR
PROBLEM?!

THE GIRL'S NAME IS
AYAME SORDMACHI.

IT WAS SUCH A
SUDDEN SMILE...

...EVEN I COULDN'T
HELP BUT GRIN.

THAT WAS MY MISTAKE...



SHE SEEMED TO REALLY LIKE ME.

DON'T
WORRY.
WE'RE GOING
TO BE GOOD
FRIENDS.

CAN
TELL.

MY WISHES
TEND TO
COME TRUE.

WHY ARE
YOU SO
COLD?

I'M
TRYING TO
FURTHER OUR
RELATIONSHIP.

WHY SHOULD I
HAVE A
RELATIONSHIP
WITH YOU? I
HAVE A RIGHT
TO CHOOSE,
YOU KNOW.





THEN
WHO
WERE
THOSE
PEOPLE
FROM
BEFORE?

THAT'S
JUST A
BUNCH OF
FOOLS
HANGING
OUT
TOGETHER.



FRIENDS
...

THAT'S
SO
STUPID.

WHY
WOULD I
NEED SUCH
A FRIEND?

I DON'T
NEED
FRIENDS.



...I'M SURE
I'M NOT WHO
YOU THINK I
AM.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU
THINK OF ME,
BUT...



SAY IT ALL
YOU LIKE,
STUPID.

BUT IT'S BEEN A
WHILE SINCE MY
EARS TURNED RED...

OOPSI

ISAMU...

OH MY
GOD!
EVEN
YOUR
EARS ARE
RED.

HOW
CUTE!

SHE'S GOT ME
WRAPPED AROUND
HER LITTLE FINGER.

I GIVE UP.

OF COURSE!
WE'RE
CONNECTED
THROUGH FATE.

BUT...

YOU
AGAIN?

YOU SHOW
UP
WHEREVER I
GO.



YOU
REALLY
ARE A
WEIRDO.

YOU
APPEARED
OUT OF
NOWHERE
AND NOW
YOU FOLLOW
ME AROUND...

I DIDN'T
NOTICE.

I WAS PRETTY
PREOCCUPIED.

IT'S NOT OUT
OF NOWHERE.
WE MET LAST
FALL.

LAST YEAR?
WHERE?

AT THE
HOSPITAL.

BUT I KNEW
THAT YOU
WOULD NOTICE
ME SOMEDAY.



I SAW YOU
FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN
THE HALLWAY
OF THE
HOSPITAL.

REALLY...?

.....

I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT MY
WISHES ALWAYS COME TRUE.

WHEN I WAS IN NURSERY
SCHOOL, THERE WAS A BULLY
IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD. I USED
TO PRAY ALL THE TIME FOR
HIM TO "GO AWAY."



THEN HE MOVED AWAY.

THAT'S
JUST A
COINCIDENCE.



I HAVE
THIS...POWER.



BUT THAT'S
NOT ALL. LIKE
WHEN MY
SISTER WAS
BORN...

ALL OF
THAT...



...IS
JUST YOUR
IMAGINATION.

AND MY
CHILDHOOD
FRIEND THAT
I REALLY
WANTED TO
SEE CAME
TO SEE ME.

AND THERE
WAS THE
TIME WHEN I
GOT CONCERT
TICKETS THAT
I REALLY
WANTED.







WHATEVER,
LADY.



JUST A
LITTLE
BABY!
YOU'RE
SUCH A
BARBARIA

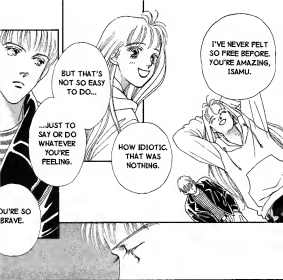
IT'S BECAUSE
OF YOUNG
PEOPLE LIKE
YOU THAT
JAPAN'S
GOING TO
HELL IN A
HANSBASKET!



IT'S BECAUSE OF
PEOPLE LIKE
YOU THAT
JAPAN'S GOING
TO SHIT.

THAT FELT
SO GOOD!





BUT THAT'S
NOT SO EASY
TO DO...

...JUST TO
SAY OR DO
WHATEVER
YOU'RE
FEELING.

HOW IDIOTIC.
THAT WAS
NOTHING.

I'VE NEVER FELT
SO FREE BEFORE.
YOU'RE AMAZING,
ISAMU.

YOU'RE SO
BRAVE.



AREN'T YOU
AFRAID OF
DEATH,
ISAMU?



IT'S STUPID TO
HOLD BACK WHEN
YOU NEVER KNOW
WHEN YOU'RE
GONNA DIE.

IT'S NOT
LIKE
THAT.

NOT
REALLY

EVERYONE'S
GOTTA DIE
SOMEDAY.

I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENS
WHEN YOU
DIE?

I
WONDER
IF
THERE'S A
HEAVEN,
AND IF
THAT'S
WHERE
I'LL GO.

DON'T BE
LAME, LITTLE
GIRL.

YOU DIE
AND JUST
DISAPPEAR
FROM THIS
WORLD.

YOU'RE
STRONG,
ISAMU.

I'M SO
SCARED OF
DISAPPEARING
FROM THIS
WORLD.

OF
COURSE
I AM
TOO...

HEY...



THIS IS
YOU,
ISAMU.

HEY,
LOOK.

PUPPETS.

THE LION,
KING OF ALL
BEASTS!

YOU'RE LIKE
THE LION
WHO'S STRONG
AND NOT
AFRAID OF
ANYTHING.

I'M...

I'M NOT LIKE A LION.

THE ONE WHO WAS
REALLY A LION WAS...

ISAMU

HURRY

ISAMU,
JEEZI

WHAT'S
UP?

HURRY UP AND
GET AN
AMBULANCE!

YOU'RE
SPACING OUT
AND NOT
LISTENING TO
A WORD I SAY.

OH,
SORRY.

YOU'RE
ACTING
STRANGE
LATELY.

YOU NEVER
HANG OUT,
AND EVEN
WHEN YOU DO,
YOU'RE
SPACED OUT.

AYAME!



HOW
WOULD YOU
KNOW
THAT?

BECAUSE
I'M A
WOMAN.

HAI
YOU'RE
JUST A
KID.

I'M NOT A KID.
I'M 16 TODAY.
I CAN GET
MARRIED NOW.

BUT SHE
PROBABLY LIKES
YOU.

ISAMU?

SORRY!

SEE
YOU
LATER.

IS THAT
YOUR
GIRL-
FRIEND?

WHAT?
CHIKA?
PLEASE. NO,
SHE'S JUST A
HANG BUDDY.

REALLY...



COURAGE.



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

OH, IT'S
YOUR
BIRTHDAY
TODAY?!



YEAH, YOU
WANT TO
GET ME
SOMETHING?!

HOW AM I
SUPPOSED TO
GIVE YOU THAT?

FOR EXAMPLE...



ARE YOU
READY?!

PUTTING ME ON THE BACK OF
A BIKE AND GOING DOWNHILL
WITH NO BRAKES!

OKAY?

IDIOTS,
LOOK AT A
PIGGIE'S
BOOTY.

OR FIGHTING
WITH GANG
MEMBERS...

ONE,
TWO...GO!

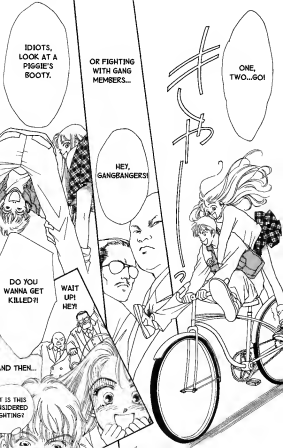
HEY,
GANGBANGERS!

DO YOU
WANNA GET
KILLED?!

WAIT
UP!
HEY!

AND THEN...

IT IS THIS
CONSIDERED
FIGHTING?





...OR IGNORING A RED LIGHT
AND CROSSING THE STREET.

NOT
YET?

NOT YET.

OKAY...
NOW

YOU
DUMBASS!
DO YOU
WANNA DIE?

YOU'RE PRETTY
TWISTED, TOO.

I WANTED TO TRY THIS CRAZY
STUFF ONCE...

SEE?

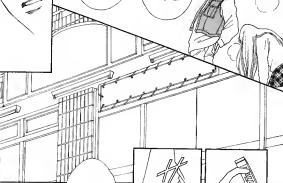
MY WISH CAME TRUE AGAIN.



STEALING.

NO,
THERE'S
ONE
MORE.

OKAY, SO
YOU GOT
ALL YOUR
WISHES,
RIGHT?



DID THEY
NOTICE?!

NO, IT'S
FINE,

BUT THIS
IS JUST
HOPLIFTING.







WH...WHAT
DO YOU
WANT!!

DON'T
COME
ANY
CLOSER.

IF YOU
DO, I'LL
SHOOT!

THEN
SHOOT.

SHOOT ME
IF YOU CAN.

SHOOT
ME!



HEY!

WAIT!

D...
DAMNI

CALL
FBI
HURRY
FBI

YOU

WHAT'RE
YOU...?

AAAAHHHH!



IT'S A
TOY.

フ
フ
フ



HEH...



HA HA...



ISAMU!



HA HA HA HA!



I'M
SUCH A
LOSER.



ISAMU...



WHY AM I
SUCH A
LAMEASS...?



DON'T SAY THAT.
I WAS SO
EXCITED BECAUSE
IT FELT LIKE I
WAS WATCHING A
REAL-LIFE MOVIE.



TRY
TOUCHING
MY HAND.

TOUCH...
MY HAND.



GET THE
GUN...

ISAMU,
PICK UP
THE GUN

THEY'RE...
THEY'RE
ALWAYS
SHAKING.

THE
WHOLE
TIME, EVER
SINCE
THAT
DAY...

ISAMU!

GET
THE
GUN...



I COULDN'T MOVE

I COULDN'T MOVE A SINGLE MUSCLE...

...EVEN THOUGH SATOSHI WAS
YELLING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

I JUST
STOOD
THERE
SHAKING.

I JUST
STOOD...

AND
WATCHED.

HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND...

...AND I
WATCHED HIM
DIE.



I DO STUPID
THINGS JUST
WAITING FOR
SOMEONE TO
KILL ME.

I'M
REALLY
JUST A
COWARD.



SO THAT WAS
WHEN I SAW YOU
AT THE
HOSPITAL.

SATOSHI SUFFERED FOR
SEVEN DAYS.

HE SUFFERED...AND THEN HE
DIED.

I'M NOT A LION.

BECAUSE OF ME..



IT'S SO HARD
TO KEEP LIVING.
I COULDN'T DIE
EVEN IF I
WANTED TO.

...HE
DISAPPEARED
FROM THIS
WORLD.



DON'T SAY
IT'S HARD
TO LIVE...

DON'T SAY
THAT.



SATOSHI
WON'T
FORGIVE ME.

IT'S NO
USE.

HE THINKS
I'M PATHETIC.

HE THINKS
I'M A COWARD
WHO SHOULDN'T
GO ON LIVING.



IT'S NOT THAT
YOU DON'T HAVE
COURAGE. IT'S
JUST THAT THE
COURAGE WAS
SLEEPING INSIDE
OF YOU.

YOUR
HANDS
AREN'T
ALWAYS
SHAKING, AND
YOU'RE NOT
A COWARD
AT ALL.

THAT'S
NOT HOW
IT IS.



NO
ONE'S
THAT
STRONG.

EVERYONE'S
SCARED OF
SOMETHING,
BUT THEY
KEEP ON
LIVING.

THAT'S WHY
I THINK...

...THAT INSIDE
OF EVERYONE,
THERE'S A
LION...

IT'S SO
UNLIKE
YOU!

NO WAY.
WHY ARE YOU
LOOKING AT
THIS
STUFFED
ANIMAL?

IT'S NOT A
STUFFED
ANIMAL.
IT'S A
PUPPET.



HEY, DO GIRLS
LIKE GETTING
STUFF LIKE THIS
FOR THEIR
BIRTHDAY?

IT'S FOR
AYAME.

STUPID,
IT'S NOT
FOR YOU.

WHY? ARE
YOU GIVING
THAT TO
ME?

BUT MY
BIRTHDAY'S IN
SEPTEMBER.



WHO THE
HELL IS
AYAME?



ISAMU,
YOU
KNOW...

YOU ALWAYS TALK ABOUT
THIS GIRL...

...BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HER.

THIS AYAME GIRL...

THERE WAS A
GIRL NAMED
AYAME
SORIMACHI AT
THIS HOSPITAL.

CAN YOU TELL
ME HER
ADDRESS?



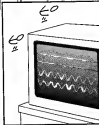
WHAT?
WHY?

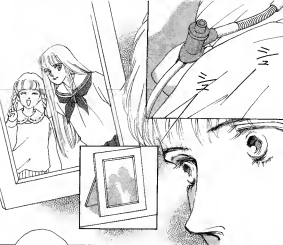
SHE'S IN
ROOM 305.

MS. SORIMACHI
IS STILL HERE
AT THE
HOSPITAL.



SHE'S STILL IN THE
HOSPITAL...





VISITING
HOURS ARE
OVER NOW.



OH...

SHE WAS
IN AN
ACCIDENT
AND WAS
BRAIN-
DAMAGED.

I THINK IT
WAS LAST
SUMMER.

HOW LONG
HAS SHE
BEEN LIKE
THIS?

!

SHE...

HER BODY DOESN'T FUNCTION ANYMORE
DUE TO THE DAMAGE IN HER BRAIN.

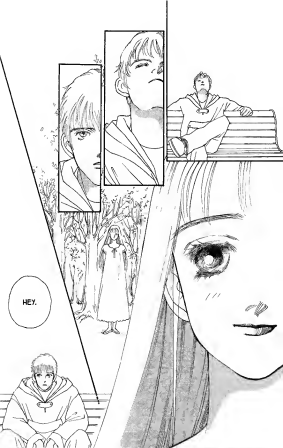
HER CEREBRAL CORTEX IS STILL
FUNCTIONING, BUT SHE CAN'T BREATHE OR
FUNCTION IN ANY OTHER WAY ON HER OWN.

AND OF COURSE, SHE CAN'T WALK OR TALK.

WE'VE CONTINUED HER TREATMENT
ACCORDING TO HER FAMILY'S WISHES, BUT
TODAY OR TOMORROW WILL PROBABLY BE HER
LIMIT.

IT'S SAD, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN KEEPING
HER HERE LIKE THIS...





HEY.



WRONG
ON BOTH
COUNTS.



CAN I
ASK YOU
SOMETHING?

AM I
CRAZY?!

IS THERE A
HIDDEN CAMERA
SOMEWHERE?



DON'T TELL ME
THIS IS ONE OF
YOUR STRANGE
WISHES AGAIN!



YOU FIRST NOTICED ME THE DAY THAT
SATOSHI DIED.



I FELT LIKE YOU WERE GOING TO
DIE, TOO.



YOU WERE SO WORRIED, YOU COULDN'T EVEN
THINK ABOUT YOURSELF...





I DON'T
KNOW.

BUT...

EVEN IF YOU COULDN'T SEE ME, YOU
DEFINITELY REACTED.

YOU FELT MY PRESENCE.

I DON'T KNOW WHY...

IT MIGHT'VE BEEN BECAUSE YOU HAD DEATH
ALL AROUND YOU.



I'LL PROBABLY
JUST DISAPPEAR
FROM THE
WORLD, JUST
LIKE YOU SAID.

AND
SOON...

WHAT'S
GONNA
HAPPEN
WITH YOU?



AND



YEAH...

I WANT TO
SLEEP NOW.

YOU'VE
REACHED
YOUR LIFE-
SUPPORT
LIMIT?



REALLY...

THERE WAS A
TIME WHEN I
CURSED MY
LIFE, BUT...

...WHEN I THINK
ABOUT IT NOW, I
THINK MAYBE IT
WASN'T SO BAD...

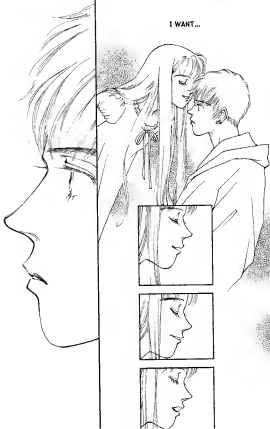


TELL ME
THERE'S
SOMETHING
I CAN DO!



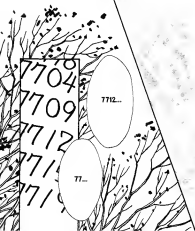
WILL YOU
GRANT ME ONE
MORE WISH?

I WANT...





AYAME DISAPPEARED.



I DON'T WANT
YOU TO BE A
COLLEGE
STUDENT. I
FEEL LIKE
YOU'LL BE SO
FAR AWAY.

DON'T WORRY. I
MAY LOOK PREPPY,
BUT I'LL ALWAYS BE
A PUNK.

I WONDER WHERE ATAME
AND SATOSHI WENT?

IF THERE IS SUCH A THING AS HEAVEN,
DOES THAT MEAN I'LL MEET THEM AGAIN?

BUT
WHAT'RE
YOU GOING
TO BE,
COLLEGE
BOY?

OR...

WOW!

I BET...

OH MY GOD!
THERE YOU
ARE, ISAMU!

1,000
BUCKS...

YOU GOT
ME, ISAMU.

I WAS
IMPRESSED THAT
YOU EVEN TOOK
YOUR COLLEGE
ENTRANCE
EXAMS,

BUT YOU
ACTUALLY GOT
INTO COLLEGE!

DID THEY REALLY
DISAPPEAR AND GO AWAY...?

NO IDEA

I DID JUST
WAKE UP,
AFTER ALL.

HUH?

BUT...

I FEEL LIKE AFTER
KNOWING AYAME...

...THERE'S SOMETHING
THAT'S GROWING
INSIDE MY HEART.

MAYBE THAT WAS AYAME'S WISH...

HEY,
ISAMU'S
SO OVER-
WHELMED
HE'S
CRYING...

HOW
SWEET.

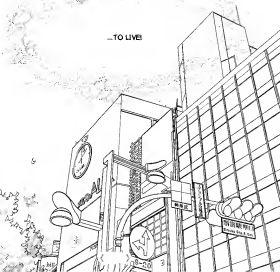
I WANT...

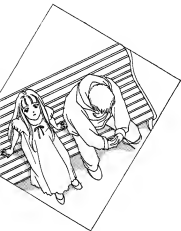
STUPID,
I WAS
JUST
BLINDED...

MY LAST WISH...

...BECAUSE THE
SUN WAS SO
BRIGHT.

...TO LIVE!







1カラットの果実



A 1-CARAT FRUIT

JANUARY...GARNET.

FEBRUARY...AMETHYST.

HEY!
WHAT MONTH IS EMERALD?

HEY, LOOK AT
THAT, NINA.



THAT WATCH
MIKI'S
WEARING...
IT'S A REAL
CHANEL.



REALLY,
AN
AFFAIR?

DON'T WEAR IT
TO SCHOOL TO
SHOW OFF...

I'VE HEARD
RUMORS
THAT SHE'S
GOING OUT
WITH SOME
GUY WHO'S
OVER 30.

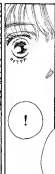
WHO KNOWS?
BUT IT'S SO
OBVIOUS THAT
SHE'S ONLY GOING
OUT WITH THE
GUY BECAUSE SHE
WANTS TO WEAR
DESIGNER LABELS.



LOVE
ISN'T
ABOUT
MONEY.

NO WAY!
WHO WOULD
ASK FOR
CHANEL IF
THAT WAS
TRUE?

YOU NEVER
KNOW. IT
MIGHT BE
REAL LOVE.



THE REASON DADDY DISAPPEARED
FROM THE DINNER TABLE...

...AND MOMMY STARTED DRINKING
EVERY NIGHT...

I WONDER IF IT'S ALL HER FAULT...



I SAW HER ONCE IN THE CITY.
SHE WAS WITH DADDY.



I WAS PRETTY
SURPRISED, BUT...



YEAH...
PROBABLY.



WHAT MONTH
WAS EMERALD
AS A
BIRTHSTONE?



HMM.
I THINK
IT IS MAY...



HEY



BUT WHAT REALLY
SURPRISED ME...

...WAS WHEN I REALIZED
HOW CALMLY I WAS
LOOKING AT THEM,

AFTER 20 YEARS
OF MARRIAGE, IT'S
PROBABLY PRETTY
NORMAL TO HAVE
AN AFFAIR.



BUT I GUESS IF
IT WAS JUST
AN AFFAIR, IT
WOULDN'T END
IN DIVORCE.



WHEN I WAS IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL, I FOUND
A RING WHILE
PLAYING IN MY
DAD'S STUDY.

WHAT'S
WRONG?

BUT I FOUND OUT
LATER...

...THAT MY
MOM'S
BIRTHSTONE
WAS
AMETHYST.

IT WASN'T FOR MY
MOTHER.

THEN WHAT WAS THAT
EMERALD?

WHO'S THE OTHER M?

I WAS REALLY TOUCHED WHEN I FOUND OUT IT
WAS AN ENGAGEMENT RING.

1975 - FROM YOSHIYUKI TO MAKIKO

AN
EMERALD
RING..

75 Y to M

WHY IS IT HIDING INSIDE DADDY'S DESK??

THAT RING TOLD ME EVERYTHING...

WHY
FOREIGNERS?

BECAUSE
WE COULD
HAVE CUTE
KIDS.

THAT'S SO
STUPID.

THAT YOU CAN MARRY EVEN
WITHOUT LOVE...

THAT PEOPLE'S FEELINGS ARE
PRETTY ARBITRARY...

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE
OF THAT...

...I CAN TALK LIKE THIS
WITH MY FRIENDS. BUT
INSIDE, I'M REALLY NUMB.

HEY, DID YOU
HEAR? AKKO'S NEW
BOYFRIEND IS A
DEAD RINGER FOR
SHINJI TAKEDA.

OH MY
GOD, I'M
JEALOUS.

ALL YOU CARE
ABOUT IS
FOREIGNERS.

I LIKE BOTH.

BUT I LIKE
TOYOKAWA
BETTER.



I CAN SMILE AND BE HAPPY THAT
SOMEONE GETS A BOYFRIEND, BUT DEEP
INSIDE I'M THINKING IT WON'T LAST LONG

I FEEL LIKE THE ONLY ONE WHO
THINKS LIKE THAT.



SEE?
OVER
THERE.

STUPID!
IT'S A
BOY.

RUI?
A
GIRL?

YEAH, HE'S
BI-RACIAL.

HEY, THAT GUY
RUI ASAKURA IN
B CLASS IS KIND
OF CUTE.



WHO-A!

HE REALLY
IS CUTE.





I WONDER IF
HE HEARD US?

OH MY GOD,
HE LOOKED
OVER!

HE'S
STILL
LOOKING.



MAYBE
HE
LIKES
ONE
OF US.



ACTUALLY,
I'M GOING
ON A DATE
WITH HIM
TODAY.



WHAT
THE
HELL
IS
THAT?!

THEN YOU
AND
ASAKURA
LIKE EACH
OTHER?!

I GAVE HIM
A LETTER
YESTERDAY, AND
HE JUST ASKED
ME OUT.

WHAT?!
SINCE WHEN
ARE YOU
TWO
TOGETHER?!

I FEEL A LITTLE
ENVIOUS.

BUT I FEEL KIND OF
DISGUSTED, TOO...



RYOKO'S
SMUG-
LOOKING
FACE...

WELL, I KEPT
FEELING HIM
STARING AT ME,

SO I FELT
LIKE HE
ALWAYS
NOTICED ME.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!

OH MY
GOD,

WHEN THAT HAPPENS I ALWAYS THINK...

...WHY AM I STILL 16?

THERE'S JUST ALL THIS YOUTHFUL
ENERGY THAT'S GOING NOWHERE.

OH...

I FEEL LIKE
I'M IN MY
OWN WORLD
AGAIN.



I CAN'T STAND IT
SOMETIMES.





NINNA!



WHOEVER SAID
YOU BECOME
PRETTY WHEN
YOU'RE IN LOVE...





I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT HIM.

HE KEPT
ASKING ABOUT
YOU THE
ENTIRE TIME I
WAS ON MY
DATE WITH
HIM.

WHAT THE
HELL IS THE
DEAL...

...WITH
YOU AND
ASAKURA?

LIAR!

LIKE "WHAT'S
SHE LIKE?"
AND "DOES
SHE HAVE ANY
SIBLINGS?"
WHAT'S
GOING ON?!

HE EVEN KNEW
THAT YOUR
PARENTS WERE
ABOUT TO GET
DIVORCED...

?!

2-8

YEAH, I ASKED
WHAT KIND OF
GIRL MS. AMAMIYA
WAS.



BECAUSE I'M
INTERESTED.



WHY WERE
YOU
ASKING?

WHY?



THEN WHY
DIDN'T YOU
GO ON A
DATE WITH
HER?



I THOUGHT I
COULD FIND
OUT STUFF.

BECAUSE I
THOUGHT SHE
WAS GOOD
FRIENDS WITH
YOU.



RYOKOH

BECAUSE...I WAS INTERESTED IN
HER...

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT.

I AM
SUCH AN
IDIOT...

HE'S PRETTY AMAZING...

I LIKED HIM
SINCE LAST YEAR.

BUT THIS
IS SO
WRONG.

I TOTALLY
GOT THE
WRONG
IMPRESSION,
AND WAS
SO GIDDY...

I'M A PRETTY HORRIBLE PERSON, BUT...

...HE'S MORE ALIEN THAN ME.



YOU DON'T
HAVE
FRIENDS,
DO YOU?



DID IT
PUT A
STRAIN
ON YOUR
FRIENDSHIP?





YEAH.

BUT DON'T YOU
THINK THAT
FRIENDSHIPS ARE
PRETTY ANNOYING?

YOU'RE PRETTY
ALOOF WHEN
YOU'RE WITH YOUR
CLASSMATES.



YOU'VE
BEEN
WATCHING
ME.

THERE'S ONE THING
THAT I THINK IS
MORE ANNOYING
THAN FRIENDSHIPS
IN THIS WORLD.

KNOW WHAT
IT IS?



I TOLD
YOU I
WAS
INTERESTED.



?!







OH,
YEAH.

MY
PARENTS GOT
DIVORCED
THREE YEARS
AGO, TOO.

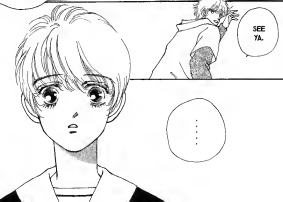
A
CERTAIN
SOMEONE?

I HEARD
FROM A
CERTAIN
SOMEONE.

YOU'LL
FIND OUT
SOON.

BUT YOU
KNOW, I FEEL
LIKE WE'RE ALL
A LOT HAPPIER
AFTER THE
DIVORCE.

WHAT?!



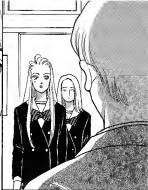
SEE
YA.

...





.....



OH GOD,
THIS IS SO
STUPID!!



DAMN,
THAT'S
BAD.





WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?

YOU'RE SO
LOW, YOU
BITCH!

THERE'S A
FIGHT IN A
CLASS!

WHAAT?







I'LL EAT IT.

CAN YOU
REALLY EAT
ALL THAT?!



I DON'T MIND
TREATING YOU,
BUT I WAS JUST
THINKING HOW
BAD IT WOULD
BE.

IT'S NOT FAIR
IF YOU DON'T
AT LEAST BUY
THIS FOR ME.

IF YOU GOT
CK TO YOUR
TOMACH ON
P OF HAVING
YOUR FACE
MESSED UP.



OF COURSE
I'M GONNA BE
HURT AFTER
BEING
PUNCHED IN
FRONT OF ALL
THOSE
PEOPLE!

I AM A 16-
YEAR-OLD
GIRL...



WHO
CARES
ABOUT MY
STOMACH

...COMPARED
TO THE PAIN
IN MY
HEART...?

SO, YOU'RE
HURT AFTER
ALL.



AND...
ALL BECAUSE
OF CARELESS
THINGS
SOMEONE
SAID...



DON'T GET
ANY CLOSER
TO ME. IT'S A
BIG NUISANCE.

EVEN IF YOU
DIDN'T MEAN
TO, THAT WAS
THE RESULT.

I DIDN'T THINK
I SAID ANYTHING
CARELESS.

ALL RIGHT.





SO...

THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN YOU
SHOULD GO
AWAY...

YOU CAN'T
LEAVE ME WITH
THIS MOUNTAIN
OF DESSERTS!



WAIT A
MINUTE.

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

YOU SAID
DON'T GET
CLOSE TO
YOU.

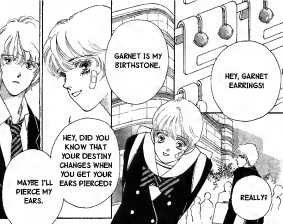
AM I A NUISANCE
OR NOT?



YOU'RE NOT...







GARNET IS MY
BIRTHSTONE.

HEY, GARNET
EARRINGS!

HEY, DID YOU
KNOW THAT
YOUR DESTINY
CHANGES WHEN
YOU GET YOUR
EARS PIERCED?

MAYBE I'LL
PIERCE MY
EARS.

REALLY?



I WANT TO
CHANGE MY
PERSONALITY.
I'M NOT VERY
LIKABLE.

WELL,
MORE
THAN MY
DESTINY,

YOU WANT
TO CHANGE
YOUR
DESTINY?



HOT LIKE I REALLY
BELIEVE THAT
PIERCING MY EARS
WILL CHANGE
ANYTHING...



RUI?



I THOUGHT
IT WAS YOU.



MOMI

HEY...



HEH HEH.
I GUESS THAT'S
WHAT MAKES
ME UNLIKABLE.



I FEEL LIKE
I'M SUCH A
COLD
PERSON.



WHEN I SAW MY
DAD WITH A
LOVER, I WAS
TOTALLY CALM.



I'M SO NOT
GIRLY.



!

THIS IS
PERFECT.

I'M GOING TO
OSAKA ON A
BUSINESS TRIP.
I'LL BE BACK
TOMORROW
AFTERNOON...

THEN ASAKURA
IS...

THIS WOMAN...

...DADDY'S...



THAT'S
PROBABLY WHEN
I STARTED TO
NOTICE YOU A
LOT.

...GOES
TO THE
SAME
SCHOOL AS
ME.

I HEARD
FROM MY
MOM THAT THE
DAUGHTER OF
THE GUY SHE'S
GOING OUT
WITH...



BUT I WAS
THINKING IT
MUST BE
HARD FOR
YOU.



MY PARENTS
WERE ALREADY
DIVORCED, AND
MY DAD MOVED
TO LONDON.



...WAS
GOING
OUT WITH
MY DAD?



YOU
DON'T
THAT Y
MOTH



BUT...
THE TWO
OF THEM
ENDED UP
MARRYING
OTHER
PEOPLE.

I DON'T
KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT THE
CIRCUMSTANCES
WERE,

IT WAS
HARD
FOR ME
TO SAY.

THEN WE
WERE
BORN.

HEY...



BUT I THINK OUR
PARENTS WERE
GOING OUT
BEFORE WE
WERE BORN.

!?

MEZUHO.

WHAT'S
YOUR
MOTHER'S
NAME?



WHAT
MONTH
WAS SHE
BORN?



MAY, BUT...

WHY DO
YOU WANT
TO KNOW?

WE WEREN'T
SUPPOSED TO BE
BORN.

THE M ON THE RING WAS FOR
ASAKURA'S MOTHER...

YEAH, THERE
WAS A
MISTAKE IN
PROGRAMMING!

HA HA. A
MISTAKE...

MAYBE THAT'S
WHY I'M SO
COLD.

YOU'RE NOT
COLD.

WHAT
ABOUT
ME...?

YOU KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE
FROM PEOPLE.
IT'S LONELY,
BUT THAT WAY
YOU DON'T GET
HURT.

YOU'RE JUST
SCARED.



HOW...



HOW WOULD
YOU KNOW
THAT?



BECAUSE
THAT'S
HOW I AM.



YOU DON'T HAVE
ANY EXPECTATIONS
OF ANYONE, SO YOU
WON'T FEEL
BETRAYED...



IT'S LONELY, BUT
YOU DON'T FEEL
SAD THIS WAY.



THAT SEEMS
LIKE YOU'RE
STRONG, BUT
IT'S REALLY THE
FLIP-SIDE OF
BEING WEAK...



I WAS SCARED EVER SINCE I
FOUND THAT RING WHILE
PLAYING IN MY DAD'S STUDY.

...THAT WE
WERE ALIKE.

I REALIZED
AFTER I STARTED
WATCHING YOU...

I WAS ALMOST ABOUT TO CRY.

I THOUGHT
MAYBE I
WOULD'VE
BEEN LIKE YOU
IF I WAS BORN
A GIRL.

I REFUSED TO LIKE ANYONE
THIS WHOLE TIME.

BECAUSE...





HINA...WE'VE
DECIDED TO
GET A DIVORCE.



I'M
HOME.



I KEEP SEEING MY
MOTHER'S IMAGE
IN MY FUTURE.



WHO DO YOU
WANT TO LIVE
WITH?



I KNOW YOU
DON'T LIKE
SEEING ME
DRUNK ALL
THE TIME.

IT'S FINE IF
YOU CHOOSE
YOUR FATHER.



IF YOU
REGRET
HAVING ME,
I'LL GO LIVE
WITH DADDY...

IF YOU
REGRET IT...

I DON'T
REGRET IT...

OF COURSE I
DON'T REGRET
IT!



I'M SORRY
I'M SO
STUPID!



I CAN'T LOVE
YOU OR DADDY
ENOUGH.



I'M
SORRY.

FOR A SECOND...



OH...
THAT
FEELS
BETTER.

THEY'RE THE
SINGLES WHO
GET TO GO TO
SINGLES ROOM.

OH RUI,
YOU'RE STILL
AWAKE?



DID YOU
HEAR?
ASAKURA'S
MOVING TO
LONDON.

NO WAY!
HE'S
STUDYING
ABROAD?!

MOM, I WAS
THINKING OF
MOVING IN WITH
DAD IN LONDON.





ASAKURAI

HE NEVER SAID
ANYTHING ABOUT
IT.

LONDON...

NO WAY!



WHY ARE
YOU
SUDDENLY
GOING
ABROAD?

YOU NEVER
SAID A WORD
ABOUT
LONDON.



I'M JUST
GOING TO MY
DAD'S.



IT'S NOT
LIKE I'M
STUDYING
OVER
THERE.





BUT IT'S
SOMETHING I'VE
BEEN THINKING
ABOUT SINCE MY
MOM GOT A
BOYFRIEND.

I CAN FEEL MY FACE
GETTING TIGHT...

HEY...

...I JUST
THOUGHT IT'D
BE EASIER IF
I WASN'T
AROUND.

IT'S NOT
THAT I
DON'T LIKE
YOUR DAD,
BUT...

IT'S JUST A
MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE
OUR PARENTS
GET
MARRIED.

SO...YOU'RE
GOING AWAY TO
LONDON.

NO.

THAT WASN'T WHAT I WANTED TO SAY...

DON'T GO.

OKAY.

DON'T LEAVE ME HERE
ALONE.

...BUT IF
YOU WANT,
WRITE ME.
I'LL WRITE,
TOO.

BOTH OUR
LAST NAMES
ARE GOING
TO
CHANGE...

YOU'RE SO
ALOOF!

IN MY HEART,
THAT'S WHAT I'M
SCREAMING OUT

HOW CAN I TELL HIM?!

I WAS KIND OF
HOPING THAT
YOU WOULD BE A
LITTLE BIT MORE
DISAPPOINTED...

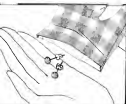
I GUESS
THAT MEANS
THERE'S NO
ROMANCE
BETWEEN
US...

YOU KNOW, WE
HAD SOMETHING
LIKE DESTINY
GOING FOR US.

WE'LL
PROBABLY
BE THIS
WAY UNTIL
WE DIE.

HA HA
HAI

IT WAS
MORE LIKE A
CONNECTION
THAN
DESTINY.





IF YOU PIERCE YOUR
EARS, YOU CAN CHANGE
YOUR DESTINY...

I WANT TO CHANGE MYSELF



ASAKURA



BE HAPPY.



I USED TO MAKE FUN OF MOMMY AND
RYOKO UNTIL NOW...

THEY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT APPEARANCES,
AND WERE PATHETIC AND SORTA CHEESY.

I'M SO STUPID.

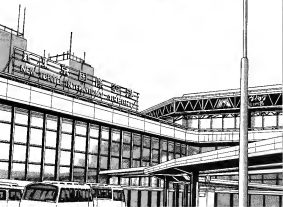
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO'S REALLY
PATHETIC.

SO STUPID...

I'M THE ONE WHO'S NOT COOL...

I'M SO STUPID...

YOUR FATHER
SAID HE WOULD
PICK YOU UP AT
HEATHROW.



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
HE WANTS
TO PLAY
FATHER.

I'M NOT A
LITTLE KID. HE
DOESN'T HAVE
TO PICK ME UP.

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.

I'M SORRY.
I HAVE AN
URGENT JOB,
SO I HAVE
TO GO.

OH, LOOK
WHAT TIME
IT IS
ALREADY.

OKAY, BE
HAPPY.





YOUR
EARS...

I JUST
GOT THEM
PIERCED.

OH, THEY'RE
ALL RED.
DO THEY
HURT?

YEAH,
THEY
HURT.

I'M
IMPRESSED.

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
GAVE THEM
TO ME.

THAT'S
TRUE,
BUT...

FINAL BOARDING CALL FOR
JAPAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 401 TO
LONDON HEATHROW.



SEE YOU.



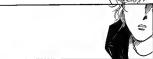
I BETTER
GO.



SEE YOU.



I...







**BOARDING CALL FOR ALL
PASSENGERS.**

**ALL PASSENGERS ON JAPAN AIRLINES
FLIGHT NUMBER 401 FROM HARITA TO
LONDON HEATHROW, PLEASE GO TO THE
GATE IMMEDIATELY.**



IN THE LETTER I GOT LATER FROM ASAKURA
IN LONDON...



...HE WROTE HOW HE GOT IN TROUBLE
FOR MAKING THE AIRPLANE WAIT SO
LONG FOR HIM.



AS FOR WHAT'S
GOING ON WITH ME...



WHAT DO
YOU HAVE
AGAINST
WRITING?

WHY DON'T
YOU WRITE
HIM BACK?

SINCE THEN MY
MOTHER GOT A JOB
WORKING ON A
MAGAZINE FOR A
SMALL PUBLISHER.



NINA, YOU GOT
ANOTHER
LETTER FROM
LONDON.



SO WHAT'S
HAPPENING
WITH
ASAKURA?

EVERYONE IS
SAYING THAT A
LONG DISTANCE
RELATIONSHIP
WILL NEVER
WORK OUT.

WELL, NO
LIKE I CAN
OR ANYTHING

LET'S START
GIVING
STUDENTS
BACK
HOUR





I can't write it
in a letter.
Call me - Nina

IT MIGHT BE A PAINFUL
RELATIONSHIP.



MAYBE I'M GOING
TO CRY A LOT...

...BUT THERE'S
DEFINITELY
SOMETHING
BLOOMING
BETWEEN US...

...EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A 1-CARAT FRUIT.





We know how
the story ended...but how
did it begin?

In this special edition of **MARS**, we explore what happens when Kiro meets Rei for the very first time. Longtime friends Totsuya and Rei are acting more like enemies these days as they bottle it out for Kiro's affections. Will they be able to mend their friendship and settle their tense conflict once and for all?

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